GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2377
ANSWERED ON:14.12.2015
Import of Consumer Products
Kamaraaj Dr. K.

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

a) the details of consumer products imported into the country during each of the last three years and the current year product and year-wise along with the percentage of total imports;
b) the benefits accrued to the economy of the country by the import of consumer products;
c) whether the development of the country is getting affected adversely due to import of these products; and
d) if so, the details thereof along with the reaction of the Government thereto?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (INDEPENDENT CHARGE)
(SMT. NIRMALA SITHARAMAN)
(a) There are around 11500 tariff lines (products) at 8 digit level in the Indian Trade Classification (Harmonized System) of Export and Import Items, 2012 [ITC(HS), 2012]. Goods/products are imported into the country as per policy outlined in the above document. Details of the products imported into the country during each of the last few years and the current year are available in the public domain at Department of Commerce website: http://commerce.nic.in/eidb/default.asp.

The total Import −Export figures for the last three years and the current year (April-October) are as under:
Value in USD Millions

Details	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16 (April-October)
Total Import	490,736.65	450,199.79	448,033.41	232,093.87
Total Export	300,400.58	314,405.30	310,338.48	154,768.56
Total Trade	791,137.23	764,605.09	758,371.89	386,862.43

(b) to (d):Economies today are extremely complex and sophisticated in terms of the diverse bundle of goods and services consumed and the technologies involved. No country is in a position to adopt a model of autarky without adversely affecting the welfare of its citizens. This is also the spirit behind the WTO arrangement and the rights and obligations under it. Under the extant policy, goods are free for import and export unless 'restricted' or 'prohibited' due to factors like national security, environment, safety of human, animal and plant life. Policy of free trade subject to these restrictions encourages optimal allocation of scarce resources, higher investment, enhanced productivity; allows consumer choice and brings competitive prices.

Trade also enables suitably addressing demand −supply mis-match and non-availability of certain goods in the country. Import of Capital Goods helps the country in developing and diversifying its production base and improving its efficiency. Import of raw materials/components and intermediate goods/products at a competitive price enables production of finished goods, thereby adding value to the economy (in terms of employment and income generation). Import of finished goods addresses issues like shortage or non-availability of goods to consumers, and enhances consumers' welfare and choice.

Measure like tariffs within bound rates and safeguard/anti-dumping and countervailing duties are available to address concerns related to domestic producers.

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